

Gallup 14



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著者:

出版者:

出版时间:

装帧:

isbn:9780826321336

When seven people are wounded in a riot in Gallup, New Mexico, and three more left for dead, among them the local sheriff, justice must be served. The authorities lose no time in rounding up the usual suspects: Mexican immigrants and striking coal miners, the Gallup 14, whose conviction and execution seem inevitable. Based on a notorious case of political coercion in the 1930s, when fear of Communism led to the scapegoating of foreigners and union activists, this novel uses court documents and newspaper reports to tell the story of the Gallup 14 through the eyes of lawyer Billy Wade and his schoolteacher girlfriend, Mary Ann Shaughnessy. Mass arrests, lineups, and brutal political pressure from local authorities form the backdrop to this powerful story of racism, exploitation, labor politics, and the legal system that is charged with meting out justice.

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